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Second Empire



ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Pure examples of an architectural style are rarely found; more often there is a mixture of features with one style predominating. The dates of the popularity of styles vary from one part of the country to another.

ITALIANATE (1845-1880)

Also referred to as "bracketed" style from the distinctive wide eaves with characteristic brackets. Roofs are gently-sloping, hipped or gabled. Frequent use is made of polygonal or square decks, belvederes, or cupolas atop the roof.

Long, narrow windows are often rounded at the top and frequently have hood molds or pediments. Windows are often found in groups of two or three. Bay windows and balustraded balconies are common. These homes nearly always feature porches or verandas. Sometimes the houses are "l-shaped" or wrapped around a square three-story tower.

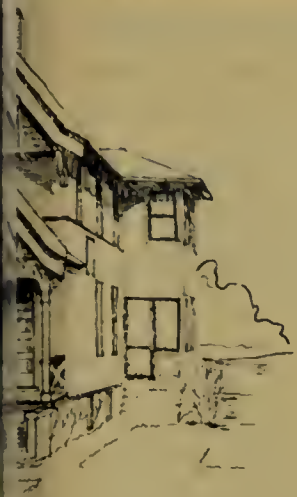
SECOND EMPIRE (1870-1895)

The main feature is the mansard roof (two slopes on all four sides, with curbs around the tops of the visible slopes.) There are usually dormer windows, protruding from the sloped roof. Iron ornaments are often found on the roof ridge.

French Second Empire or "mansard" style homes, were often richly ornamented, giving a three-dimensional effect.

QUEEN ANNE (1880-1890)

The dominant element of the Queen Anne style is usually a round turret. Other characteristics include irregular massing, projecting sections, and irregular roof lines with gables and dormers. Exterior patterns and materials vary widely. Roofs are often steep and multiple with frequent intersections. Bay windows are frequently employed, as are "six over one" window subdivisions. Tall, thin chimneys, often with intricately designed patterns, are utilized. Shingle or clapboard second stories over brick first stories are common. Some details are classical in style and small in scale, such as turned wood spindles.



ROMANESQUE REVIVAL (1875-1900)

Massive construction, frequently using rough stone building materials, towers and turrets with conical roofs. Romanesque style also makes use of arched doorways and irregularly shaped windows and doors.

SHINGLE STYLE (1885-1903)

This style evolved from the Queen Anne Revival. The overall effect is simpler, with more horizontal emphasis and less variety in color and materials. Windows are small paned and often form horizontal bands. This feature was further developed by Frank Lloyd Wright in the Prairie style home.

Other characteristics include rambling roofs, with a more moderate pitch than Queen Anne, and broad gable ends. The exterior walls of the upper story-and sometimes the ground floor-have a uniform covering of shingles.

STICK STYLE (1870-1890)

This genuine American style of architecture resembling the Gothic cottages of the 1850's has tall proportions, with high and steep roofs. It appears complex and irregular in massing and silhouette. Eaves project and are supported by large brackets. This style usually has extensive verandas, with roofs supported by posts with diagonal braces.

GEORGIAN REVIVAL (1890-1915)

The Georgian Revival style is basically rectangular in shape and symmetrical in form. The placement of windows, doors, and chimneys add to the symmetry. Classical details such as columns, pilasters, and cornices all contribute to a stately effect. A hip roof with a central flat deck surrounded by a railing is frequently found.

EARLY 1900 STYLES

Other styles found in Decatur are the Neo-Classic (1890- 1930), as illustrated by the Powers mansion, 357 West Decatur; Art Deco (1920's and 1930's) best shown in the Masonic Temple; English Domestic or Tudor (1900-1920), a good example at 323 West Macon Street; Italian Villa Style (c. 1911), 505 Powers Lane; and Italian Renaissance (c. 1917), 861 West William Street.

80 ACRES FOR \$100!

Eighty acres now included in Decatur's Historic District were entered at the U.S. Government land office on March 21, 1829. William Hanks, Jr., paid \$1.25 an acre or a total of \$100 for the land that extends from Wood Street to the Norfolk and Western Railway tracks and from Union Street to Monroe. Many historically or architecturally significant structures are located on this land.

EARLY HISTORY

Decatur was originally platted in 1829 as a 20 acre settlement, an area bounded today by Prairie, Wood, Water and Church streets. The two Main Streets bisected this original plat.

Wood Street marked a timber line that extended to the Sangamon River. Early settlers used timber in this area to build the first houses. Portions of this timber still remain in the Powers Lane, South Edward Street and Greenwood Cemetery area. Prairie Street actually marked the beginning of the prairie that stretched for miles.

The prairie was considered suitable only for grazing, not for cultivation. Prairie grass grew from six to twelve feet high so thick that plows could barely break it. The open prairie was also feared because of the frequent fires that swept across the dry fall grasses.

Railroads helped Macon County grow from fewer than 4,000 residents in 1850 to more than 26,480 in 1870.

COLLEGE HILL

The original land known as College Hill - also referred to as "The Mound" - was owned by William Hanks, Jr., who purchased the property from the United States government in 1829, the year Macon County was established.

Hanks sold the property to William T. Crissey in 1836. In 1841, Mr. Crissey made an agreement with Peter Akers and William Stoddard Crissey to act as trustees in order to "build or cause to be built an academy or seminary of learning" by the year 1850. It was to be "free to all persons without restrictions from any difference of religious sentiments."

If this arrangement didn't work - and it didn't - the land was to be sold and proceeds given to the missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Society went to court (in 1862) to force the issue and in 1864 the property changed hands again.

The Illinois Sunday School Association built a tabernacle on the land in June, 1867 for a statewide meeting. (Other statewide events were held in Decatur during this decade, including state fairs held in what is now Fairview Park in 1863, 1864, 1869 and 1870.)

The first house on College Hill was built in 1873 by William Quinlan, on the south half of the property.

MILLIKIN PLACE - 1909

On December 31, 1909, the Decatur Review carried the first announcement that Millikin Place would be established "as a harmonious whole" on land purchased by several local businessmen. Wiring would be underground, heat would be piped from a power plant located about two blocks away, and a landscape architect would be in charge. Later it was learned that Frank Lloyd Wright had agreed to design houses at 1, 2 and 4 Millikin Place. However, Wright left his studio and Hermann von Holst was named to complete the project with Wright's associates. Marion Mahony, Wright's chief design artist, is generally credited with designs for the houses at 1 and 4 Millikin Place. She later married Walter Burley Griffin, who laid out and landscaped all of Millikin Place. Griffin gained world-wide fame when he won an international competition to design Australia's capital city, Canberra.

Each of the Millikin Place homes is slightly different, yet each features the gently sloping roof with deep overhangs, large chimneys, bands of windows that emphasize the horizontal line, attractive leaded windows, and a central two-story portion with one-story extensions at either end. These are typical features of Wright's Prairie School period.

DECATUR'S HISTORIC DISTRICT

The District was nominated in 1976 for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The area is bounded by Eldorado, Church and Haworth Streets and the Sangamon River.

The District encompasses virtually all architectural styles popular in Illinois between the Civil War and the Great Depression. Forty-one of the houses and buildings in the District are included in three separate walking tours prepared by the Decatur Area Arts Council.

Acknowledgement is given to resource material written by John W. Smith (1876) and O.T. Banton (1976), and to Zonta Club of Decatur, which published during 1975 and 1976 two excellent books about old Decatur.

MACON COUNTY

Macon County was named after the Honorable Nathaniel Macon, a legislator from North Carolina. He served in the House of Representatives from 1791-1815 and from 1816-1828 in the Senate. His 37 years of uninterrupted service to Congress included six years as Speaker of the House and two years as president pro tem of the Senate.

Macon County was established by the Illinois Legislature in 1829, and originally included parts of DeWitt, Piatt and Moultrie counties. Decatur was chosen as the site for the county seat.

The sale of town lots took place on July 10, 1829, as did the tax levies. The first tax collection (based on personal property) netted \$109.32½.

The Court set tavern rates relative to the times; a man could feed himself and his horse for 37½ cents, and a half pint of brandy, gin, wine or cordial was just 25 cents.

The first house in Macon County was about eight miles northeast of Decatur, and was used as a trading post. The second house, built by William B. Downing, a bee hunter, was located on the south side of the Sangamon River; and was later sold to John Ward. One of the early residents in the Ward Settlement was William Warnick, Macon County's first sheriff. In 1822, Buel Stevens built a third house about three miles northwest of Decatur, on what is now Steven's Creek.

Between 1829-1850, the population of Macon County grew to nearly 4,000.

Thomas Lincoln's family, including his son Abraham, arrived in Decatur during March 1830, and settled in a cabin on the Sangamon River. Lincoln lived in Macon County only a year, moving on to New Salem. He returned later as a circuit-riding attorney-at-law.

Lincoln also returned in 1860, when the new Republican party held its state convention in Decatur. The week after receiving his party's unanimous endorsement in Illinois, Lincoln was nominated for President by the national Republican convention in Chicago. Lincoln's last stop in Decatur came on February 11, 1861, while riding the special train that would take him to Washington, D.C. to become President.

One of Lincoln's close friends in Decatur was Richard J. Oglesby. Oglesby was a three-term Governor of Illinois who also served in the Illinois General Assembly and United States Senate.

HISTORIC DECATUR ILLINOIS



WALKING TOUR FIVE

1. Dr. Robert's Drug Store; 1861

117 East Main

A drug store has operated at this address since 1845. Dr. Roberts was a brother of T.T. Roberts, who established the Decatur Coffin Company. Clint Armstrong operated the store from 1870 to 1892 as Roberts and Armstrong Drugs. E.A. West then operated West's Drugs there until 1939 when it was purchased by Roy Enloe, whose family operates it today. The second and third stories were removed in 1969, and a new front was added in 1970.

2. Lincoln Memorial Plaque; 1918

117 East Main

A bronze plaque marks where Abraham Lincoln paused in the spring of 1830 on his journey from Indiana to Macon County, which was to be his first home in Illinois.

3. Morehouse and Wells; 1914

134 East Main

A Romanesque feeling pervades this building although much of its detail is classical. The abundance of detailing includes acanthus leaves, moldings in egg and dart, dentils, roman key, waves, and bay leaf garland designs. The Morehouse and Wells mercantile business was opened in 1859 on the site occupied by the Bachrach Building, 100 Merchant St. The store was moved to 134 East Main, where it was destroyed by fire in 1909. The present building was built on the same site in 1914.



4. Commercial Buildings; c. 1867-1870

149, 153, 159, 161 East Main

The Italianate facades of these four buildings have the typical tall, narrow windows. Hood treatments over the arched windows vary from elaborate to simple. Brackets and cornice remain only on 153 East Main.

5. Standard Life Building; 1916 100-132 S. Water

Built by Charles G. Powers, this building is divided into a base, shaft, and capital typical of the Chicago Commercial style. Millikin National Bank has been at this location since 1969. It was the first of Decatur's present banks and was founded in 1860 by James Millikin.



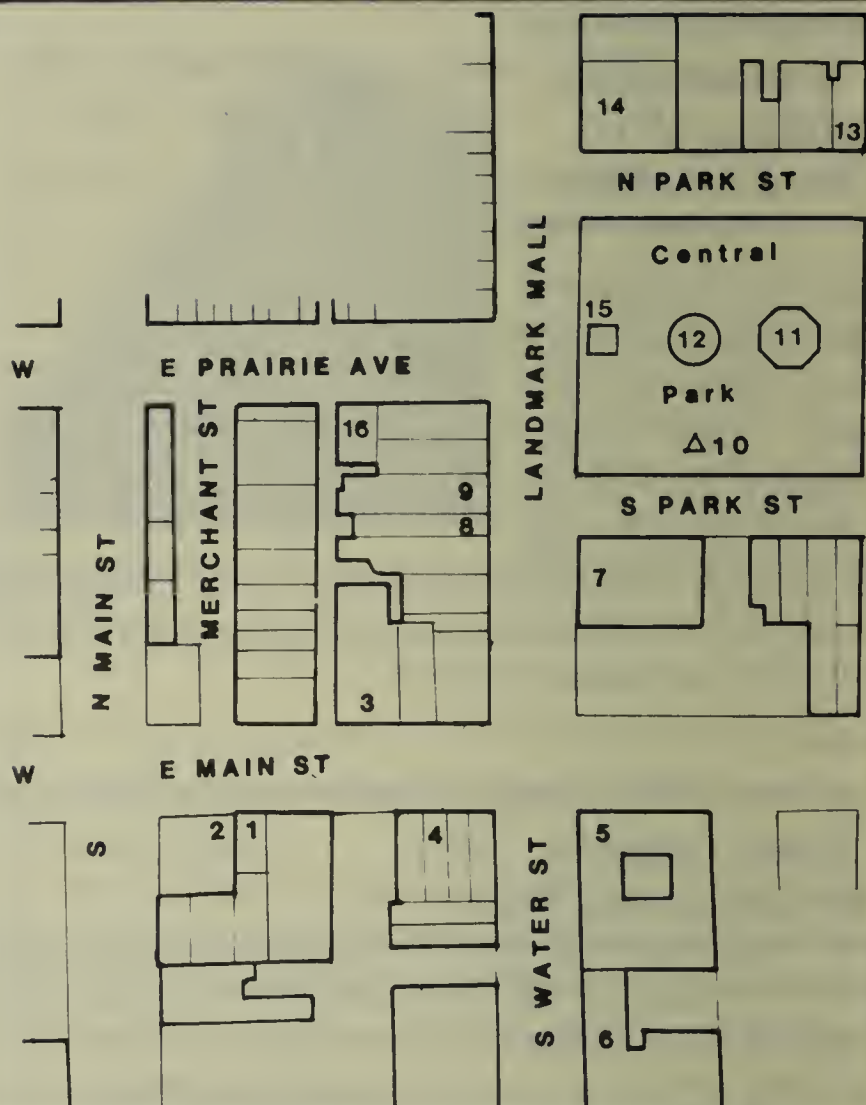
6. Hotel Orlando; 1916 146-156 South Water

Built in one year for \$375,000, the hotel was named for Orlando Powers, father of builder Charles G. Powers. J.L. Simmons of Chicago was the contractor and Holmes & Flinn of Chicago were the architects. This building was remodeled and redecorated in the 1940's, 1950's, 1960's, and 1980's. The U-plan of the building creates a central light shaft whose vertical theme is echoed by many-colored brickwork through the structure. A classical decorative stone arch graces the original entrance and terra cotta provides decorative detail.

7. National Bank of Decatur; 1914 130 North Water

This neoclassical building is identified by its monumental fluted Ionic columns. Further classical details include egg and dart molding and the entrance cornice. James J. Peddecord started Decatur's first banking service in 1852. His firm merged in 1912 with the National Bank of Decatur, which was founded in 1873.





Walking Tour Five

You may find it convenient to park your car on Lincoln Square or along Merchant Street. Begin at the southeast corner of Lincoln Square, then walk east one block on East Main Street to Water Street. Turn north on Water Street to South Park Street and Central Park. Follow the diagonal sidewalks through the park to North Park and Franklin Streets. Then turn east on North Park Street one block to Landmark Mall. Walk south $\frac{1}{2}$ block along the mall to Prairie Avenue, then turn east for $\frac{1}{2}$ block. Return via Merchant Street to Lincoln Square. Approximate walking time: 30-45 minutes.

8. Commercial Building; 1910 139 N. Water

This classically detailed facade has a projecting central pavilion. Columns feature egg and dart, ionic and corinthian decoration.



9. Commercial Building; 1915

151 North Water

This brick facade is accented with decorative stone blocks and brick patterns. The roofline is capped with stone.

10. G.A.R. Founding Memorial; 1916, 1960

Central Park South

This memorial consists of two bronze markers on a granite boulder. The older marks the planting and dedication of a tree to the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) on its 50th anniversary (1866-1916). The newer marks the replacement of the tree in 1960. The G.A.R. was formed on April 6, 1866, by twelve Civil War Veterans in a building on South Park Street.

11. Transfer House; 1895; moved 1963

1 Central Park East

Decatur's most famous landmark, the Transfer House was built in Lincoln Square, the center

of the original town. It served as a shelter and ticket office for local transit lines, as well as a meeting place for townspeople and farmers. Horsedrawn cars connected the old square to the railroad depot. Later the building became the transfer point for electric cars and motor buses. Based upon recommendations of a traffic flow study conducted by the State of Illinois, the Transfer House was moved to Central Park in 1963.

The octagon structure features six large semi-circular arched windows and two arched doorways under a hip roof with flared eaves. Two large brackets occupy each corner under the eaves. A bandshell on top of the roof has its small domed roof supported by stone columns. The upper portion was used as a bandstand by the Goodman Band, renamed the Decatur Municipal Band in 1943. The band is reputed to be the oldest in continuous existence in the nation.



12. M.L. Harry Fountain; 1930

Central Park, Center

This fountain was built with funds given in memory of M.L. Harry, one of the most important leaders in the history of the Illinois Power Company, and a civic leader in the Decatur community until his death in 1929. Harry was general superintendent of the Decatur Railway and Light Company in 1903, and he managed the construction of the interurban system of electric cars that connected Decatur with several cities in Central Illinois. He was area superintendent of the Illinois Power and Light Corporation when it was formed in 1923.

13. Decatur Women's Club;

1890

288 N. Park and

295 N. Franklin

This English Revival structure features brick bands, psuedo-half-timbering and stylized Flemish gables. Etched cattails form the decor of a remodeling from c. 1940. Founded in 1887, the Decatur Women's Club is one of the oldest in the U.S.



14. Citizens National Bank;

1910-1914

230-248 N. Water

Traditional elements and terra cotta accent this yellow brick structure. Alternating columns of windows on the south are emphasized by fifth floor brickwork, brackets and arches. Decatur's third bank, Citizens Bank was formed in 1883. From 1889 to 1910 it occupied the Casner Building at 105 E. Prairie.



15. Civil War Monument; 1904

Central Park West

“The Defense of the Flag”, unveiled in 1904, was sculpted by Sigvald Asbjornsen, one of the most famous sculptors of his day. Three soldiers and a tattered flag top the neoclassical base with its bronze tablets honoring the soldiers of Macon County, heroes of the Civil War, and the Grand Army of the Republic.

16. Universalist Church; 1854

135-137 East Prairie

This building originally housed the Universalist Church of Decatur. The facade has slender, gothic windows with hoods of carved stone and fleur-de-lis in the keystones. During early remodeling in 1876, walls were raised to provide office and business space on the first floor and an audience room upstairs.



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HISTORIC

DECATUR

ILLINOIS



WALKING TOUR THREE



1. Jack House; 1866 451 West Macon

Originally owned by Sarah Bradley, this home was purchased by S.S. Jack in 1870 for \$4,000. At various times Jack was a school teacher, principal, state legislator, newspaper publisher, and postmaster. The house was originally one-story brick, with dining room and kitchen in the basement, both with windows above grade. A second floor was added in the 1880's and a frame addition in 1920.

2. McMillen House; c. 1884 465 West Macon

This house was purchased by R. C. McMillen in 1918. He was U.S. Representative to Congress for three terms and part of a fourth. A large dining room was added as well as a screened porch.



Walking Tour Three

Park in the 400 block of West Macon. Head west, then south on College to West Decatur Street. Go west to Monroe, south to Forest, and east to Powers Lane. After viewing houses on Powers Lane, walk north to West Decatur, then east to Union Street, and north one block back to West Macon. Approximate walking time: 45 minutes.

3. Folrath House; 1911

539 West Decatur

The original Folrath House, later copied for a home at 259 North College. The two-story frame home has now been converted to apartments.



4. Rosen House; 1903 617 West Decatur

This eight-room home was built by Decatur architect Richard O. Rosen, who lived in it for 14 years. He designed the Powers mansion and the Shlaudeman-LeForgee home at 560 Powers Lane.

5. Webber House; 1893

487 Ewing Avenue

Designed by attorney Albert G. Webber, the original owner. Brick exterior ranges in thickness from 18-36

inches. It also has a huge brick spine down the center to support the roof and chimneys. One of the first Decatur homes with indoor plumbing, the Webber House has one fireplace of hand-carved oak with ceramic tile.



6. Ewing House; 1912 505 Powers Lane

Designed by Chicago architect Frederick Perkins, this home has 11 rooms, two open porches and two terraces. It is of wood frame construction, with stucco block and tile exterior. Italian villa style.

7. Powers House; 1910 519 Powers Lane

Originally owned by Theron Powers. A fine example of Georgian Revival style architecture.

8. Shlaudeman LeForgee House; 1910

560 Powers Lane

R. O. Rosen was the architect for this home, which shows a Georgian style of architecture in the balustraded central portico and Ionic columns. The doorway is also Georgian with sidelights and fanlights in palladian style. There is some Federal influence in the lintels over windows, and modern mode in plain cornices and projecting eaves.

9. Blackstone House; 1909 580 Powers Lane

This house incorporates several features of the Prairie style. Note the vertical striping in wood on the second floor, the horizontal theme between first and second floors in the dark wood sill line, casement windows, low-hipped roof, and projecting eaves. Architects: Leisy & Ludwick, Danville.

10. Brown House; 1913

600 Powers Lane

This house was designed by Frederick Perkins of Chicago. Has large sleeping porches, one for adults and one for children. Attractive landscaping overlooking a ravine to the rear of the lot. Georgian style.



11. Wikoff House; 1880 413 West Decatur

A lovely old home that features long, high windows; curved, 10-foot ceilings; a marble floor in the center hall; wide window sills. There are also handsome fireplaces in the 10-room house. Italianate.

12. Powers Mansion; 1910

357 West Decatur

One of Decatur's most distinctive homes. Built in 1910 for Charles G. Powers, eldest son of Orlando Powers. Cost was estimated at \$85,000. It was purchased in 1939 by oil man Sam Jarvis. Almost monumental in form, it had many influences of the Columbian Exposition and the revival of classical architecture. The Ionic columns in front are said to weigh seven tons each. Note window arches and lintels and use of balconies. The home makes generous use of mahogany wood trim, beamed ceilings, contains five fireplaces, a ballroom and a basement garage large enough to accomodate seven or eight cars.



13. Powers

House; 1905

444 South Edwards

Originally built as a barn for the Charles Powers mansion at 357 West Decatur, this property was converted

to a home in 1922 by Jack Powers, his son. The two-story wood-frame structure has stucco on wood and brick veneer.



14. Mills House; 1888 or 1889

356 West Decatur

Until recently, this home was owned by descendants of Andrew H. Mills. Remodeled in 1909, it is a ten-room house with full attic and basement. Of particular interest are three lovely fireplaces with ceramic tile borders; well-kept woodwork; and an open, central stairway with large newel post and oak spindles.

15. Ullrich House; 1875 or 1876

314 West Decatur

John Ullrich emigrated to the U.S. from Bavaria, and moved to Decatur in the mid 1800's. The original home had six bedrooms, a large floored attic, and numerous fireplaces.

16. Walker House; 1912 323 West Macon

Designed by Frederick W. Perkins of Chicago. This style features half-timbering between eaves and on the second floor, steep pitched roof with pendants and corbels, and upper projecting stories. There is fumed oak paneling in the entry and attractive molded plaster ceiling. English Domestic.

17. Crea House;
1871 334 West Macon

This brick home was built for Decatur attorney Hugh Crea, who had come to Decatur in 1863. Italianate.



18. Wallace House; 1875 346 West Macon

Originally built by a Decatur physician, this house was remodeled in 1905. Note the steeply pitched roof, decorative bargeboards, finials, and pendants. Gothic Revival.

Notes:



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HISTORIC DECATUR ILLINOIS



WALKING TOUR FOUR

1. Lincoln Square

Lincoln Square, the center of the original town laid out in 1829, is bisected by North/South and East/West Main Streets. The first

courthouse (1829) was erected in the southwest corner of this Square; the second courthouse (1838) was in the southeast corner of this Square. In 1892 a transfer house was placed in the middle of the Square for passengers of horse-drawn street cars; this was replaced in 1895 by an octagonal structure which was moved to Central Park in 1963.



2. Denz Building; 1907 136-142 N. Main

Built by E.A. Denz, this structure is dominated by two-story projecting copper bay windows. Fourth floor windows are semi-circular arches;

a vine pattern decorates the freize. Note the trompe l'œil mural on the south facade.



3. Pasfield Building, date unknown 222-226 N. Main

The stone surface like that of the Commercial Building to the north identifies this structure as Victorian Romanesque. Neoclassical elements, however, include the cornice style and copper bay

window above the entrance with classical molding and fluted pillars.



4. Syndicate Building; c. 1880 234-250 N. Main

This Victorian Romanesque building has an overall rusticated appearance. Grotesques are carved into the tops of stone columns, and bay windows are decorated with swags.



5. Library Block; c. 1900 314-328 N. Main and 100-122 East William

The corner tower and arched windows detailed with stone identify this building as Victorian Romanesque. Interest is created with other fine detailing such as the medallions and scroll designs on the tower.

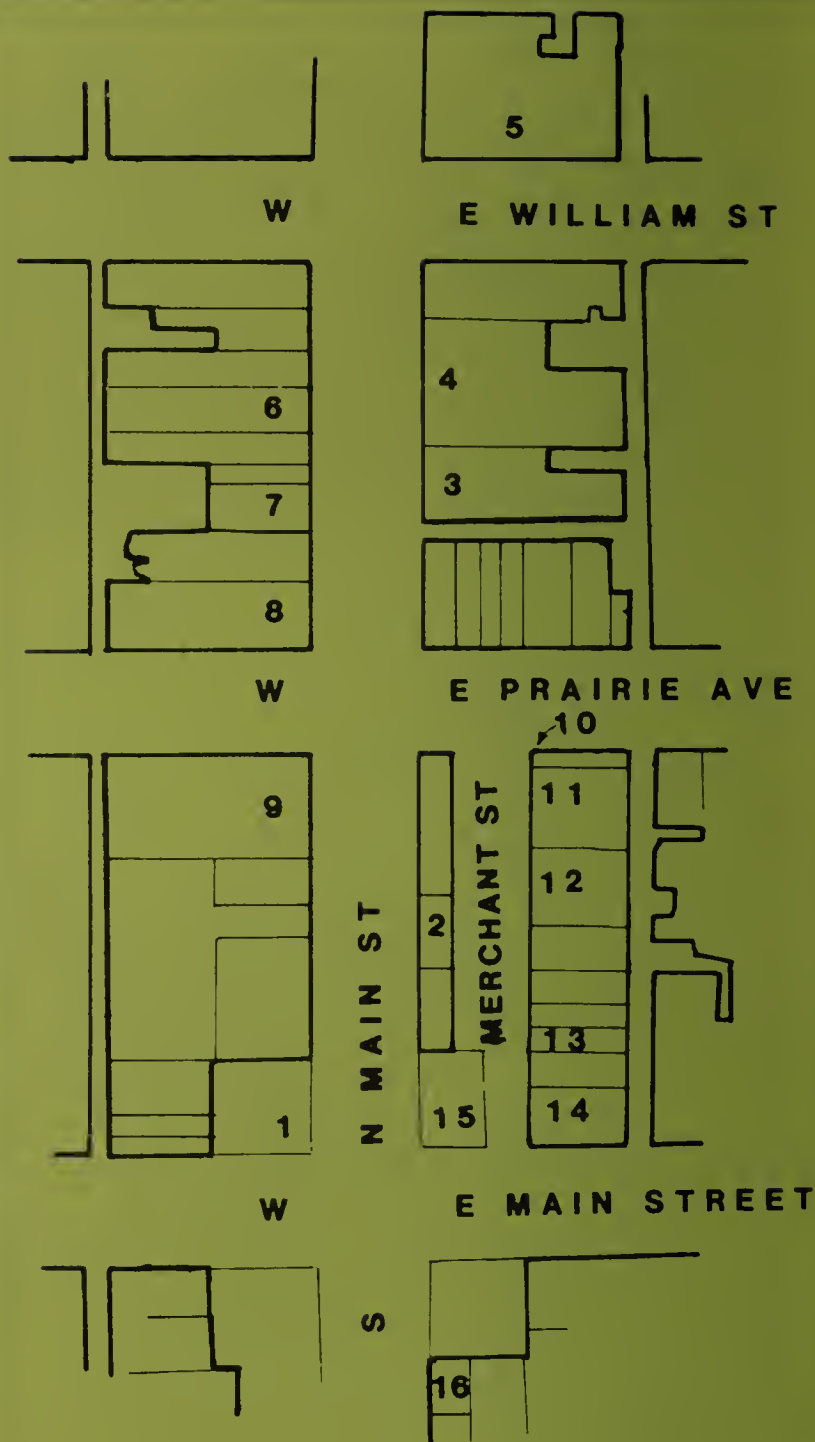


6. Herald Block and Commercial Buildings; 1891 227, 233, 237 North Main

Stone carvings of cat faces accent second story windows at 237 North Main; dragons and winged animals decorate other areas. This building once served as the offices for the *Decatur Herald*, which began publication in 1879.

The Italianate structure at 233 North Main is notable for its tall, narrow, arched windows capped with horizontal hoods. The prominent feature at 227 North Main is the semicircular carved stone arch over the middle, third floor window.





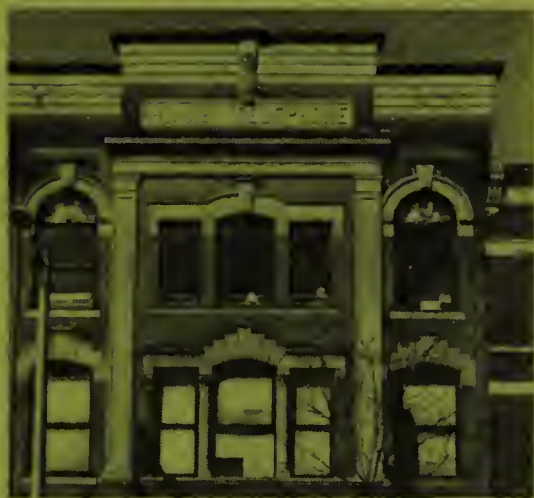
Walking Tour Four

You may find it convenient to park your car on Lincoln Square or along Merchant Street. Beginning at the northwest corner of Lincoln Square, walk north two blocks along the west side of North Main Street to William Street. Cross North Main Street at William Street. Then turn south one block along the east side of North Main Street to Prairie Avenue. Then walk east on Prairie Avenue to Merchant Street. Walk south on Merchant Street to the northeast corner of Lincoln Square. Cross East Main Street to the southeast corner of Lincoln Square. Approximate walking time: 30-45 minutes.

7. Home Telephone Building; 1915

219-223 N. Main

Pilasters topped with "egg and dart" shaped ornaments frame the center of the facade of this building. Windows to the side of the center pavilion have arched, carved stone hoods. A telegraph office was once housed in this building; the Decatur Home Telephone Company served Decatur in the early 1900's.



8. Suffern Building; 1915

201-211 North Main

This building has several characteristics of the Chicago School of Architecture. Terra cotta shields and swags and geometric brick patterns create interest above the third floor Chicago Commercial windows. Builder W.H. Suffern formed a grain and cereal firm in 1891; a company mill built in 1909 produced the first breakfast corn flakes.

9. Bachman Building; 1912

147-161 N. Main

Built by Charles F. and William G. Bachman, this structure was designed by architect R.O. Rosen. Terra cotta forms its classical details: lintels, sills and cornice. Bachman Brothers Furniture was started in 1880. This building was also occupied by Linn & Scruggs, a dry goods firm, from 1924 to 1970.



10. Casner Building; 1888

105 E. Prairie and 162-170 Merchant St.

Built by Lewis B. Casner, this stark Victorian Romanesque building's main features are the slender corner turret, arched windows, stone accents, and the name plate. The Citizens National Bank was the building's first occupant in 1889.

11. Post Building; c. 1860's

156-160 Merchant St.

This Italianate facade has long, narrow, arched windows capped with elaborate stone hoods. This is one of the two original buildings remaining from the "Seven Store Block" sketched in the 1874 Atlas of Macon County. H. Post and Sons, jewelers, opened in 1872 and later moved into the Casner Building; it was in operation at the end of Merchant Street for over 100 years.

12. Dodson Building; c. 1860's

142-154 Merchant Street

Like its neighbor to the north, this building is Italianate with long, hooded windows and was in the "Seven Store Block". Originally there was an arch above the cornice bearing the name "Dodson". Benjamin F. Dodson was a wine and liquor merchant whose shop occupied the building along with an attorney and a boot and shoe merchant in the 1870's.



13. Leisy Building; c. 1910

118-120 Merchant St.

This Gothic Revival structure is marked by a large, recessed gothic arch. Elaborate decoration frames the original stained glass which was retained in the 1982 renovation of the building. The site was once a saloon, operated as an outlet for the Leisy Brewing Company in Peoria.

14. Bachrach Building; 1910

100-104 Merchant St.

This stark building gives a hint of Chicago Commercial design through its window treatment. Decorative elements are the copper Italianate cornice, stone lintels and large iron anchor beams. This site was occupied from 1882 to 1979 by Bachrach's Clothing Store, originally known as "Cheap Charley's" to emphasize low prices. Henry Bachrach was a leading Decatur businessman and the first to rebuild after the disastrous 1909 Morehouse and Wells fire which destroyed the south half of Merchant Street.

15. Merchant St.

Merchant Street block consists of the nine structures along the east side of Merchant Street and the narrow strip of three buildings known as Central Block between Merchant Street and



North Main Street. From 1845 to 1857 Merchant Street was known as Bank Avenue. The Merchant Street designation resulted from the plat and resurvey filed by Franklin Priest on July 15, 1857.

Looking north from Lincoln Square you see nine structures on the east side, highly cohesive; the same building height, three stores, generally prevails, and brick is used throughout. Commercial Italianate is the predominant style and exhibits a high level of architectural detail: bay windows, bracketed eaves, stained glass, sculptured lintels. The same setback is maintained and the streetscape has a mass-to-mass rhythm with a continuity of flat roofline and window placement which provides a strong horizontal emphasis within the narrow vertical character of the streetscape.

16. Commercial Building; 1900

101 East Main & 122-128 South Main

A gaged arch over four windows on the north facade creates interest in this building while Spanish influence is evident in the parapet wall on the west facade.



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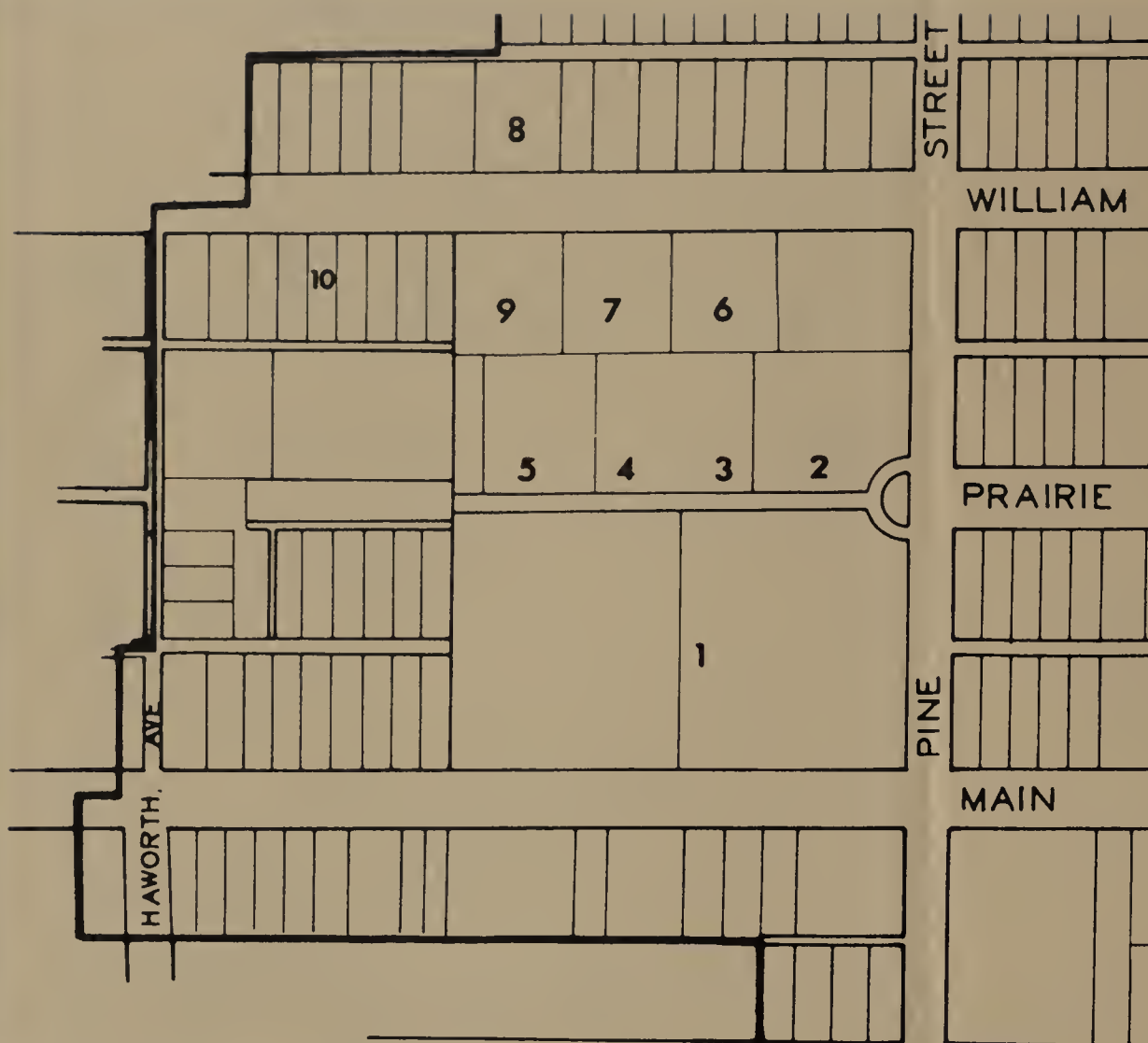
HISTORIC

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WALKING TOUR ONE



Walking Tour One

You may find it convenient to park your car on Pine Street between Main and William Streets, or just off Pine on Prairie or William. Follow the curving drive off Pine to the front door of the Millikin Homestead. Walk along adjacent Millikin Place to Pine, turning left (north) for one block to William. Turn left, again, (west) to see structures in the 800 and 900 blocks West William.

1. Millikin Homestead; 1876 125 North Pine

An Italianate structure, with a high mansard roof on the tower in Second Empire style, the Homestead was built by Decatur banker and philanthropist James Millikin. Excellent craftsmanship is evident in the woodwork, elegant fireplaces, glass and leaded glass. The kitchen was added in 1903. The Homestead was a hospital in 1918-19; then an Art Institute from 1920 to 1969.



2. Robert Mueller House; 1910 1 Millikin Place

This house features blue-gray brick and terra cotta tiles set in on both sides of the living room. Robert Mueller was vice president of Mueller Co.



3. Irving House; 1910 2 Millikin Place

The long expanse of tile roof gives unity to this 11-room house. Designed for stucco construction, this house was changed to brick exterior walls after construction was started. Blueprints have Frank Lloyd Wright's signature.

4. Grady House; 1910 3 Millikin Place

Built of wood frame with shingles above the first floor, this home was owned by Decatur industrialist William J. Grady. It is in the shingle style popularized by McKim, Mead and White, who developed it in the 1880's for "country" homes of the very wealthy.

5. Adolph Mueller House; 1911 4 Millikin Place

The Adolph Muellers lived in this 11-room house until 1946. He was chairman of the board of Mueller Co. The house is credited to von Holst and Fyfe, and Marion Mahony Griffin, associate. The slight upturn at the gables' lower edge is an Oriental touch frequently found on Mahony buildings. There is lovely use of stained glass in the ceiling of the living room.

6. Gebhart House; c. 1923 849 W. William

This nine-room, 2½ story house was first occupied by the H. S. Gebhart family. He was president of a large dry goods business in Decatur.

7. Cruikshank House; 1917 861 W. William

C.J. Aschauer was architect for this house of 17 rooms, eight full baths and two half-baths. The living room has a limestone fireplace and a ceiling of Georgian plaster work. To the east is a solarium with attractive leaded windows. Renaissance Style.

8. Moeller House; 1910

390 W. William

Designed by Lake Forest architect Howard Van Doren Shaw. Interior and exterior walls are eight inches thick. Herringbone brick pattern used inside and out; six wood-burning fireplaces. English Georgian.



9. Surface House; 1913 891 W. William

This house features a tiled roof with wide projecting eaves, ornamental plaques, verandas and solid oak doors on the first floor. Spanish Colonial. Architects: Aschauer & Waggoner.

10. T.T. Roberts House; 1904

919 W. William

The Prairie School of architecture is evidenced by the horizontal emphasis of the low pitched hipped roof, and wide overhanging eaves. Window treatment is also characteristic. Ornamentation is subdued but is evident in supporting brackets, tiled columns, and chimney design. Brick covering was added in 1924. Original two-story garage replaced with a carport in the 1940's. Architect: Professor White, Champaign.



Millikin Place; 1909

On December 31, 1909, the Decatur Review carried the first announcement that Millikin Place would be established "as a harmonious whole" on land purchased by several local businessmen. Wiring would be underground, heat would be piped from a power plant located about two blocks away, and a landscape architect would be in charge. Later it was learned that Frank Lloyd Wright had agreed to design houses at 1, 2, and 4 Millikin Place. However, Wright left his studio and Hermann von Holst was named to complete the project with Wright's associates. Marion Mahony, Wrights chief design artist, is generally credited with designs for the houses at 1 and 4 Millikin Place. She later married Walter Burley Griffin, who laid out and landscaped all of Millikin Place. Griffin gained world-wide fame when he won an international competition to design Australia's capital city, Canberra.

Each of the Millikin Place homes is slightly different, yet each features the gently sloping roof with deep overhangs, large chimneys, bands of windows that emphasize the horizontal line, attractive leaded windows, and a central two-story portion with one-story extensions at either end. These are typical features of Wright's Prairie School period.

Notes:



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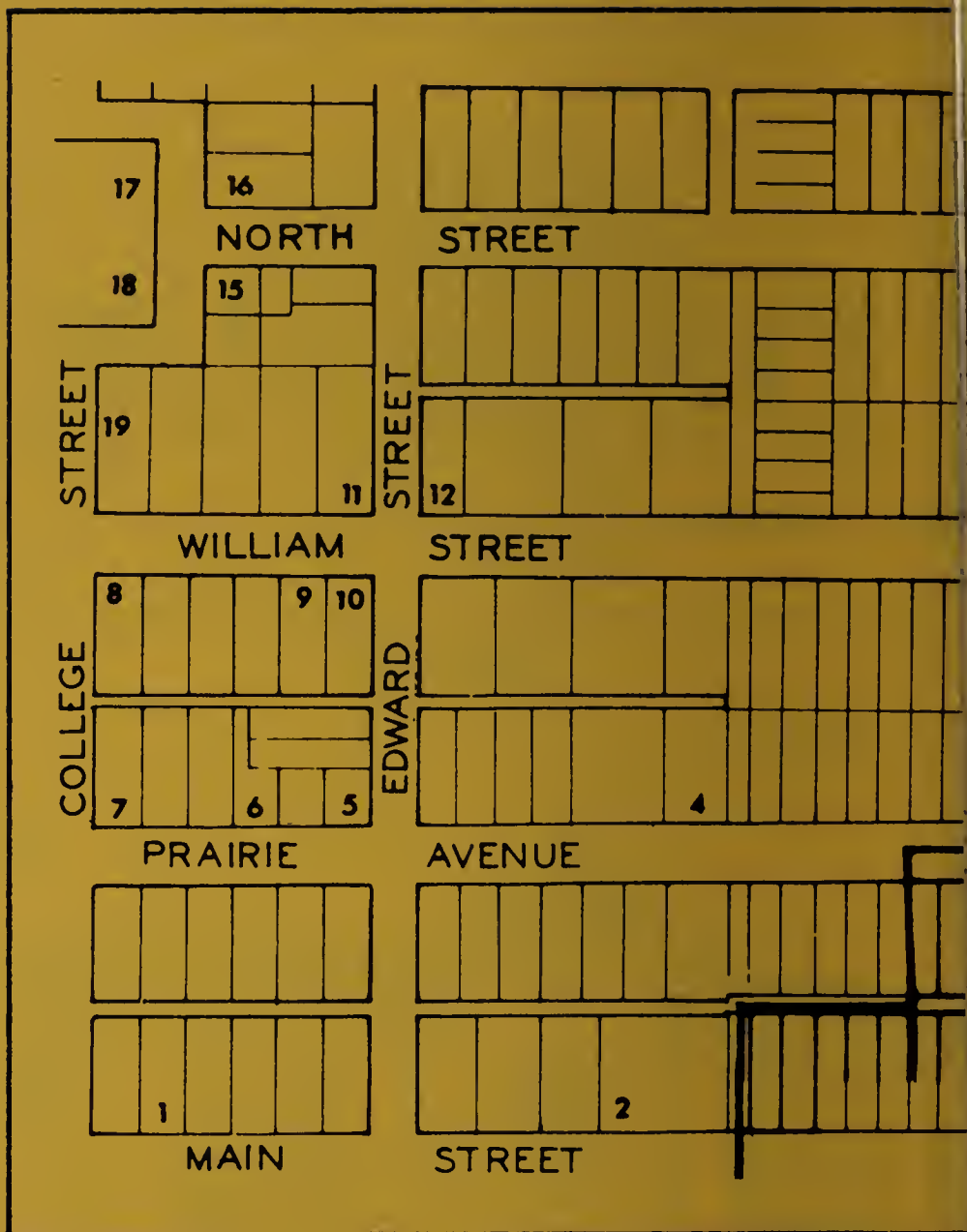
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WALKING TOUR TWO



1. Baldwin House; 1879 452 West Main

Built near the site of a two-room log cabin of William Hanks Jr. Hand-hewn walnut logs from the cabin are used as ceiling beams in the kitchen. Iron work on the crest of the roof, the eaves and the porch is original. Brackets under the eaves and long, narrow windows with frames rounded at the top are Italianate characteristics.

2. Linn House; 1889 308 West Main

Built by a founder of Linn and Scruggs Department store, it was described as a "castle" with a tower on the southwest, massive front and side porches, steep sloping roofs, and very high chimneys. Other features are the carved oak front doors; and a square window in a round frame.

Walking Tour Two

You may find it convenient to park your car on West Prairie near North College for this tour. Walk one block south to West Main and then east to Church Street. Walk one block north to West Prairie, head west to North College and turn north. Then turn east on West William two blocks to North Church. You will pass First Methodist Church as you head north on Church to West North Street. Two blocks west brings you to College Hill, where you turn south again. Approximate walking time: 50 minutes.

3. First Presbyterian Church; 1890-92

204 West Prairie

Designed by Chicago architect Henry Starbuck. Romanesque style generally, but with a strong Byzantine feeling in the sanctuary ceiling. Indiana sandstone has weathered from its original light buff color with olive cast. Original cost was \$85,000. Original roof was purple slate.

4. Peter Loeb House; 1887

300 West Prairie

Designed by California architect Theodore Lenzen. Note the turrets, gables, variety in textures, window sizes and styles (one has 25 panes), different sized spindles, stained glass, plate glass and leaded glass. Each of the eight fireplaces is different. Queen Anne Style.



5. Culver House; c. 1887 412 West Prairie

This former family residence once had a paneled third-floor ballroom which was destroyed by fire in 1979. The large room to the left of the main entrance was a library, housing a collection of 5,000 volumes. Rooms are unusual in shape; center hall has ornate oak woodwork.

6. Drew House; c. 1895

442 West Prairie

The front window embedded in the masonry of the unusual chimney, irregularity of massing, a front entry resembling an attached gazebo, a tower (the conical roof missing), spindles decorating the porch, and the second-story balcony are all distinctively Queen Anne features.



7. Folrath House; 1915 295 North College

The original owners, Mr. and Mrs. David Folrath, had the floor plan of their previous home at 539 West Decatur copied by architect England Dague, in designing this home. It features a tapestry brick exterior laid in the old Dutch mold.

8. Lyon House; 1915 467 West William

Originally built for lumber dealer George Lyon as a duplex with wood frame construction and stucco on wood exterior.

9. Oglesby Mansion; c. 1875

421 West William

A former U.S. Senator and Illinois Governor Richard J. Oglesby moved into this Italianate style house with his second wife in 1875. This house was possibly designed by William LeBaron Jenney of Chicago. There was originally a balustrade around the flat deck of the hip roof; note the bay windows, verandas, bracketed eaves and original diamond-shaped glass. The rear conservatory was added later.



10. Henry Mueller House; 1905

405 West William

Georgian Revival Architecture, designed by W.O. McNabb for a son of the founder of Mueller Co. Basic rectangular shape with few projections; symmetrical design with balanced windows. Second floor windows over front entry create a palladian effect. Free-standing columns and pilasters have classic Ionic capitals.

11. Anderson House; 1865

309 North Edward

Italianate style, as illustrated by long narrow windows, both curved and straight lintels over windows, brackets under the eaves. It has 15-inch thick masonry walls. The south chimney serves a first floor library and a second floor bedroom, while the second chimney serves a parlor and another bedroom.



12. Catto House; 1880

364 West William

This structure became the Decatur Day Care Center in 1943. Built by Lysander L. Haworth, the home resembles the Millikin Homestead a few blocks away. The same craftsmen apparently worked on both. The main entrance was from the south, to a central hall, with parlors on both sides. The third floor was also finished and sturdy enough for children to rollerskate on rainy days. Italianate style.

13. Masonic Temple; 1929

224 West William

Designed by the Chicago firm of Holabird and Roche, the Temple is an excellent example of Art Deco architecture. Ornamentation is subdued, but closer examination reveals extensive carving around the entrance and windows. Blue, silver and gray were chosen as interior colors.



14. First United Methodist Church; 1906

Designed by Sidney R. Badgley of Cleveland. Except for the Byzantine dome, the church is done in English or Modern Gothic style. The exterior is an artificially produced stone, backed by hard burned Decatur brick. Note the blue stained glass in windows, twin flat-topped towers and hooded windows.

15. Haworth House; c. 1863

437 West North

Note the double front windows with a single, distinctive ogee arch of brick with cast iron pendants. Other win-

dows have rounded brick arches. Both interior and exterior walls are brick; exterior walls are 10 to 12 inches thick. Gothic.



16. Barnes House; c. 1859 438 West North

Parts of the original home have been incorporated into Lincoln Manor, a shelter care facility. It was originally built along colonial lines, with a broad, high-ceilinged portico in front and a front balcony with ornamental iron railing. The center, two-story section was flanked by one-story wings, later remodeled by Dr. Ira Barnes.

17. Chambers-England House; 1882

401 N. College

The home was built by William Chambers, a founder of Chambers-Bering-Quinlan, and three-time Decatur mayor. It was practically rebuilt in 1916 by its new owner, C.E. England. The home had a ballroom and maid's quarters on the third floor; sleeping porches for four of the five second-floor bedrooms; sun-parlor, music room, and four other rooms on the first floor. (See College Hill)

18. Staley Mansion; 1883 361 N. College

A frame house built by William J. Quinlan (of Chambers-Bering-Quinlan), and sold in 1889 to William Ennis for \$25,000. It was purchased in 1913 by Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Staley, Sr., and remodeled into an English Tudor home for a cost estimated at \$125,000! At one time, the house contained 30 rooms including a 100-foot long sunroom. The "c"-shaped porch was added by Mr. Staley. Note French style, leaded and stained glass windows; and a carriage house large enough for six cars.

19. Freeman House; c. 1870 328 N. College

Originally owned by William Lapham, this residence was bought by Decatur shoe merchant James Freeman in 1878. Italianate style.

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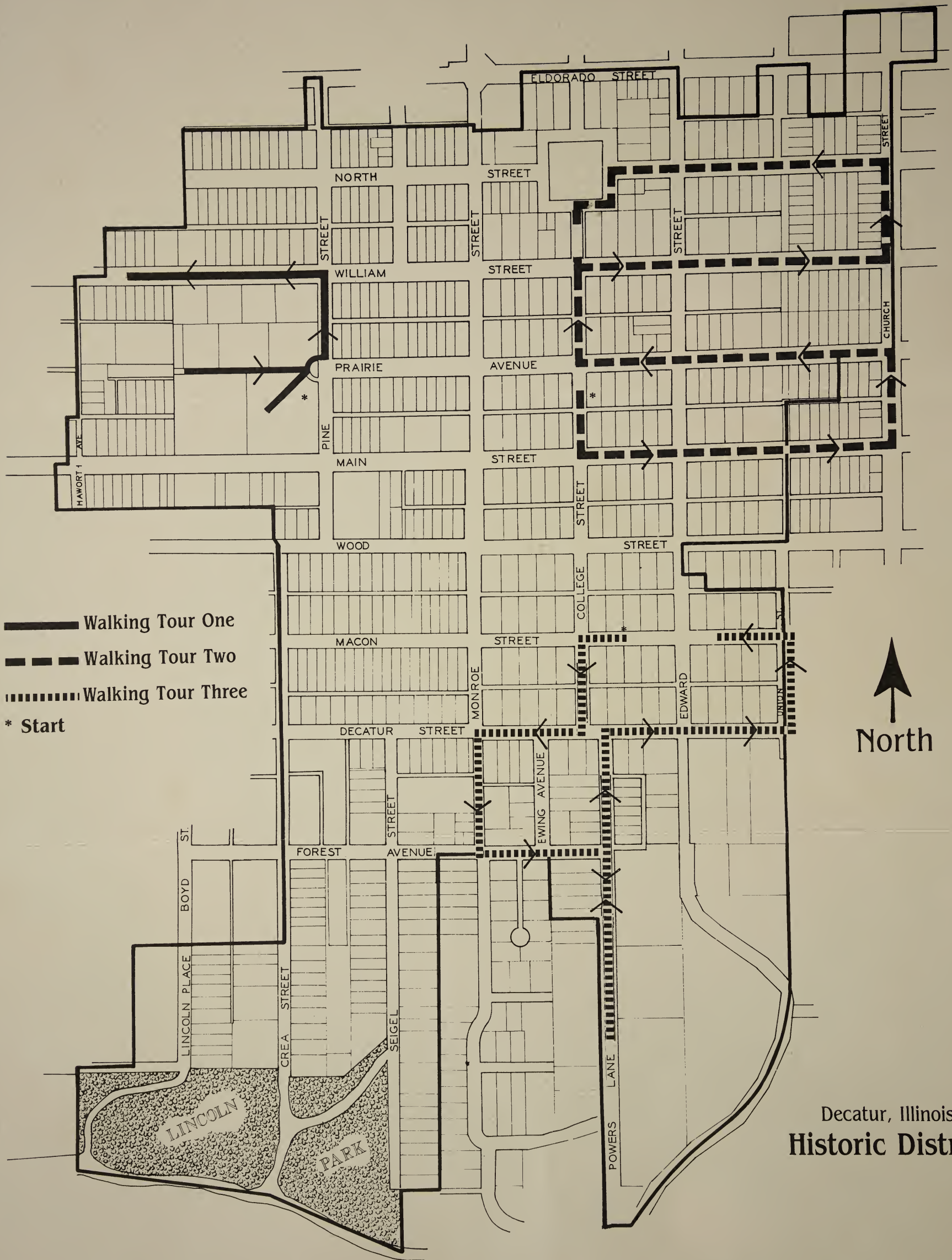
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Transfer House -See Cover

Decatur's best known landmark and number one symbol, the Transfer House was built in 1895, in Lincoln Square, the center of the original town. From the early days, this was a meeting place for townsmen and farmers. The first horse-cars came from the railway station to the square; branch lines extended from there. The electric cars and motor buses also used the square as their transfer point - thus the name of Transfer House. Public transportation lines grew as the City grew; there were 6,500,000 riders in 1929. The Transfer House, an octagonal building surmounted by a pagoda-like structure, has a dome-shaped roof. The upper part was used as a bandstand by the Goodman Band. Upon the recommendation of the State of Illinois regarding traffic flow around the building, in 1962, the City Council decided to move it to Central Park. For some time, the Transfer House sheltered the bus patrons waiting at the nearby stop. The Downtown Decatur Council has occupied it since 1970.

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